

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIET VIEWS ON MBFR

A SOVIET OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON CURRENT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, THE USSR AND THE US WILL FIND IT FRUITLESS TO ATTEMPT TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES DURING THE MEETING IN VIENNA; RATHER, THEY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON WORKING OUT SPECIFIC, CONCRETE PROPOSALS; SECOND, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ABOUT REDUCTIONS, NOT ASSOCIATED MEASURES. HE ALSO OBSERVED THE TWO SUPERPOWERS SHOULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER ON MBFR REGARDLESS OF THE VIEWS OF "SOME SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES," AND STATED FLATLY THAT HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 13949, 11/6.

2. SCHEEL MAKES LITTLE PROGRESS IN MOSCOW

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IN AN FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING, EMBASSY BONN LEARNED

THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL'S TALK WITH SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON WEST BERLIN QUESTIONS AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT WAS GOOD, BUT THERE IS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE THE

OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. THE GERMANS FEEL THE SOVIETS ARE INTENT ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE FRG BUT WILL GIVE NOTHING AWAY IN THE BERLIN OR BILATERAL AREAS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 15983, 11/5.

3. CANADA WILL BOW TO ARAB PRESSURE

THE MONTREAL GAZETTE OF NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT CANADA WOULD CUT OFF EXPORTS OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES, IF ARAB COUNTRIES MADE SUCH ACTION A PRE-REQUISITE FOR CONTINUING CRUDE OIL SHIPMENTS. DURING THE SAME INTERVIEW, MINISTER MACDONALD ADDED THAT CANADA WOULD NOT HALT EXPORT OF ITS OWN CRUDE, AND DENIED AN EARLIER REPORT THAT THE CANADIAN RESPONSE TO ARAB PRESSURE WOULD BE TO CUT OFF ALL EXPORTS TO THE US. (UNCLASSIFIED) OTTAWA 2646, 11/6.

4. EAST BANK JORDANIANS MORE HAWKISH

EMBASSY AMMAN REPORTS THAT THERE IS A SLOW BUT PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OF EAST BANK JORDANIANS AWAY FROM AN EARLIER DETERMINATION TO AVOID HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. TRADITIONAL EAST BANK LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN THE MOST ISOLATIONIST IN JORDAN NOW WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE CONDITIONAL ENTRY OF JORDAN INTO A NEW WAR IF THE CEASEFIRE BREAKS DOWN THROUGH ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. THE FORMER FEAR OF ISRAELI POWER HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DISSIPATED BY THE RECENT WAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) AMMAN 5893, 11/6.

5. TANAKA IN MOSCOW

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA, RECENTLY RETURNED
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FROM A CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN PARIS, HAS TOLD EMBASSY SOFIA THAT THE JAPANESE-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW DID NOT GO WELL PARTLY DUE TO PREMIER TANAKA'S PERSONAL BEHAVIOR. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT TANAKA, A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR WHO SPEAKS HIS OWN MIND, SHOUTED AT GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV SEVERAL TIMES, LABELING HIM A DICTATOR WHO COULD DO WHAT HE WANTED, AND SAYING THERE WAS NO EXCUSE WHY THEY COULD NOT SOLVE MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

THE TALKS NEARLY COLLAPSED, AND RESUMED ONLY AFTER THE SOOTHING INTERVENTION OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH DELEGATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) SOFIA 1490, 11/6.

6. US TRADE DELEGATION RECEIVED WARMLY IN PEKING

A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE (NCUSCT), NOW VISITING CHINA, HAS RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME FROM THE CHINESE, ACCORDING TO USLO PEKING. IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS THE NCUSCT INDICATED TO THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS THEY HOPED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, PRINCIPALLY THE EXCHANGE OF TRADE MISSIONS. THE CHINESE WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY THE EXCELLENT NCUSCT PRESENTATION, BUT HAVE NOT YET SHOWN HOW RESPONSIVE THEY WILL BE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 1341, 11/6.

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